



(Fu)

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shinichiro TANIGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2136

Application No.: 09/454,865

Examiner: C. COLIN

Filed: December 7, 1999

Docket No.: 104934

For: DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 18, 2006 Office Action, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3.1, rejects claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,117,096 to Bauer et al. (hereinafter "Bauer") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2002/0013898 to Sudia et al. (hereinafter "Sudia"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

I. The Applied References Fail To Teach Or Suggest All The Claim Limitations

A. Bauer Does Not Suggest All Of The Features The Office Action Alleges

The Office Action asserts, in paragraph 3.2, that Bauer "substantially teaches" the features of independent claim 1, with the exception of the features associated with generating, storing, and selecting signature key data. This assertion is incorrect for at least the following reasons.